

Re: Requiring Roll Bars and Lap Seat Belts for Riding Lawn Mowers

California OSHA Board
2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95833

May 1, 2007

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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
STANDARDS BOARD

To Whom It May Concern:

We are parents who have lost their son to a work related accident. We have contacted our Congresswoman Lois Capps, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, CA State Senator Able Maldonado, & CA State Assemblymember Pedro Nava to tell them our concerns about the safety of rider mowers.

Our son Michael Petrini was killed in a horrible accident at our Santa Barbara Mission on August 30, 2004. He was doing his job as a gardener for the Mission. The rider mower hit a rock and it sent the mower over a ledge onto the bottom of a big field. It flipped him out of the mower and it landed on him. According to the Coroner's report, it killed him instantly. Our world, as we knew it, stopped that day.

After much soul searching, we now hope you and the above members of our government can make a difference in safety in the workplace. We are asking you if there is a way to require **roll bars and lap seat belts on all riding lawn mowers**. Does it take a special Act of Legislation/Bill in order for this to happen? Ever since Michael died, we have been wondering how to require employers to have safer equipment for all their employees. We are sure there are many Assembly/Senate Bills that protect employees, but we have never heard of one requiring roll bars and lap seat belts for rider mowers. Maybe if there was Michael's life might have been spared.

Please look into this matter for us and please keep us informed, because anything you can do to save a life in the workplace, would help prevent the grief our family has experienced.

Sincerely,

Julio Petrini
Madeline Petrini

Julio and Madeline Petrini
340 Old Mill Road #196
Santa Barbara, CA 93110
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cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Senator Able Maldonado
State Assemblymember Pedro Nava